

**Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: February 8, 2016 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: George Clinton Hall, Howard St. John Conference Room,
SUNY Ulster Community College
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman TJ Briggs
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Legislative Staff
PRESENT: Legislators Fabiano, Lapp, Maio and Rodriguez - 5:36 PM
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislature Chairman Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Sheriff VanBlarcum, Under Sheriff Freer, Legislator Mary Wawro

Chairman Briggs called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and thanked everyone for accommodating the meeting schedule and location change. He clarified that the change was only for this meeting.

Motion No. 1: RESOLVED To Approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting

Motion Made By: Legislator Lapp
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Fabiano, Lapp, and Maio
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 2: Resolution No. 86 – February 16, 2016

Text of Motion: Resolved to approve Resolution No. 86 – Confirming Appointment Of Member To The Traffic Safety Board

Motion Made By: Legislator Maio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Resolution No. 86 Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Susan K. Plonski to the Traffic Safety Board for a term through January 31, 2019.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Fabiano, Lapp, Maio and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 3: Resolution No. 87 – February 16, 2016

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 87** – Confirming Appointment Of Member To The Traffic Safety Board

Motion Made By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Resolution No. 87 Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Giovanna Russo to the Traffic Safety Board for a term through January 31, 2019.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Fabiano, Lapp, Maio and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 4: Resolution No. 91 – February 16, 2016

Text of Motion: **Moved Resolution No. 91 FOR DISCUSSION** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock – Department of Probation

Motion Made By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Resolution No. 91 Summary: This resolution approves a contact totaling \$110,000 with Family of Woodstock, Inc. for the administration of the Alternative to Juvenile Detention Project, a diversion services program for low and moderate risk youth 7-15 years of age.

Discussion:

Chairman Briggs informed the members that there was no one present from the Department of Probation to answer any questions. He reminded the members that every month he requests that an individual be present to speak to resolutions or, if schedules do not permit attendance, that an explanation be emailed to him prior to the meeting.

Legislator Maio asked if the contract was for an annual program. Chairman Briggs informed the members that the contract was for the 180 program, an early intervention program run by the Family of Woodstock.

Legislature Chairman Ronk stated that, when he was a member of the committee, he appreciated the strict policy of postponing or taking no action on resolutions if there was no written explanation or person present to speak to the matter. Legislator Fabiano added that he has the same policy for the Public Works and Capital Projects Committee.

Legislator Maio withdrew her motion.

Disposition: No action taken

Motion No. 5: Resolution No. 95 – February 16, 2016

Text of Motion: Moved Resolution No. 95 FOR DISCUSSION – Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services For Participation In The Crimes Against Revenue Program – District Attorney

Motion Made By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Resolution No. 95 Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chairman to execute an agreement between the office of the District Attorney and the NYS Department of Criminal Justice Services for participation in the Crimes Against Revenue Program totaling \$151,815 for a term January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016.

Discussion:

Chairman Briggs informed the members that a representative from the District Attorney's Office was not present and that he had not received anything in writing.

Disposition: No action taken

Motion No. 6: Resolution No. 96 – February 16, 2016

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 96** – Amending Capital Project No. 460 – Purchase of Central Auto Vehicles – Department of Public Works (Central Auto)

Motion Made By: Legislator Maio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Resolution No. 96 Summary: This resolution amends Capital Project No. 460 of the 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Program in the amount of \$50,000 for the purchase of one vehicle for the Sheriff's Office (Criminal Division.)

Discussion:

Legislator Fabiano informed the members that this resolution was discussed and passed by the Public Works committee last week. He explained that Sheriff Van Blarcum had originally included six cars in the Capital Projects, but was asked by the Executive's Office to reduce the request by one car. The Sheriff agreed to reduce the request by one, but the Executive's Office reduced it by two. The Sheriff contacted the Commissioner of Finance/Budget Director to have the error corrected.

Sheriff Van Blarcum added that there was additional confusion because of an inmate transport van that was purchased by his office. He clarified that the van was purchased with commissary dollars and that the cars requested in the capital project were patrol vehicles.

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Fabiano, Lapp, Maio and Ronk

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 7: Resolution No. 110 – February 16, 2016

Text of Motion: Resolved to approve Resolution No. 110 – Supporting The Passage Of A05518/S03891 To Amend The Volunteer Firefighter’s Benefit Law For The Expansion Of Specific Health Condition Coverage

Motion Made By: Legislator Maio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Resolution No. 110 Summary: This resolution supports the passage of NYS Assembly Bill 05518 and NYS Senate Bill 03891, amending the Volunteer Firefighter’s Benefit Law in relation to the expansion of coverage to include cancer of the digestive, hematological, lymphatic, urinary, prostate, neurological, breast and reproduction systems.

Discussion:

Legislature Chairman Ronk advised the members that the issue came up in the January Fire Advisory Board meeting, but said that he felt it would be inappropriate to introduce the resolution at the January Organizational meeting. He added that the State Legislature is currently in session making county action timely. He informed the members that the bill is sponsored by a Democrat in the Assembly and by a Republican in the Senate, which gives it a good likelihood of passing. He explained that the bill aims to extend the same health care benefits to volunteer firefighters that professional firefighters receive.

Chairman Briggs added that the EMS and First Responder community has been discussing this matter and is in support of the state legislation.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Fabiano, Lapp, Maio, Rodriguez and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Sheriff’s Report

Chairman Briggs recognized Sheriff Van Blarcum to discuss the monthly Board In and Telephone revenue report. Sheriff Van Blarcum acknowledged that the report indicated revenue below expectation but added that it would take a few months before a true trend could be analyzed. He informed the members that Dutchess County has taken back most

of their inmates and that populations state-wide are low. He also said that inmate populations tend to increase when the weather breaks.

Legislator Rodriguez asked about the potential for closing off sections of the jail with low populations. Sheriff Van Blarcum advised the members that they have already been doing that, but added that closing sections doesn't save money as staffing levels are based on population and dictated by the NYS Commission of Corrections.

Old Business

Chairman Briggs asked if there was any old business. Sheriff Van Blarcum asked Chairman Briggs if Deputy County Executive Sudlow provided any information on the two parcels the Sheriff's Office was interested in pursuing for a county firearms range. Chairman Briggs informed the members that one parcel was a former tire dump which was privately owned and also had a \$2.5 million DEC lien on it. The other property was a quarry. Sheriff informed the members that the quarry was located across the street from the tire dump and reminded the committee that a county firearms range was part of his office's 2016 goals and objectives. Chairman Briggs said he was going to do a little more research on the property.

New Business: Chairman Briggs asked if there was any new business.

Chairman Briggs asked if there was any other business. Hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Fabiano
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of March, 2016

Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: March 1, 2016